

## **Maritime Domain Awareness Executive Steering Committee (MDA ESC):**

The MDA ESC is comprised of senior executive-level Principals designated by their respective departmental Executive Agents (EA) for MDA from cabinet-level departments (currently DOD, DOT, and DHS) and the National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office (NMIO) as the designated maritime representative of the Intelligence Community (IC). The MDA ESC coordinates MDA policies, strategies, and initiatives. MDA ESC membership may change upon the consensus of the MDA ESC principals. The MDA ESC also provides forums, activities, and venues to engage the Global Maritime Community of Interest (GMCOI) to promote collaboration and information sharing to enhance MDA.



## **Maritime Domain Awareness Plan and supporting Strategies:**

The National Maritime Domain Awareness Plan (NMDAP) supports Presidential Policy Directive 18 (PPD-18) and the National Strategy for Maritime Security (NSMS). The plan also strives to enhance ongoing MDA activities such as ocean/waterway surveillance and maritime intelligence integration in support of MDA objectives.

The NMDAP and its supporting documents (see below) are intended to be enduring and constantly evolving to inform and make the best use of changing capabilities, operational relationships, and policies. These documents also integrate maritime information for those with valid access throughout the Global Maritime Community of Interest (GMCOI). The shared common awareness between the intelligence, law enforcement, and operational communities is complex and has many policy and legal implications that must be addressed to promote risk management planning. This enables the entire maritime community to develop a shared understanding of the risks and opportunities of those who wish to harm or disrupt vessels, people, cargo, infrastructure, and resources within the maritime domain.

The following are the NMDAP and supporting documents:

- [National Strategy for Maritime Security \(Sep 2005\) and supporting plans:](#)
- [National Maritime Domain Awareness Plan \(NMDAAP\) \(Dec 2013\)](#)
  - [FAQs](#)
- [Maritime Transportation System Security Recommendations \(Oct 2005\)](#)
- [Maritime Commerce Security Plan \(Oct 2005\)](#)
- [Domestic Outreach Plan \(Oct 2005\)](#)
- [International Outreach and Coordination Strategy \(Nov 2005\)](#)
- [Maritime Infrastructure Recovery Plan \(Apr 2006\)](#)
- [Maritime Operational Threat Response Plan \(Oct 2006\)](#)

Additional Plans:

- [National Security Strategy \(May 2010\)](#)
- [National Strategy for Counterterrorism \(Jun 2011\)](#)
- [National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security \(Jan 2012\)](#)
- [National Strategy for Information Sharing and Safeguarding \(Dec 2012\)](#)
- [National Strategy for the Arctic Region \(May 2013\)](#)

## **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Information Sharing**

Information is a national asset that requires a responsible balancing act between information sharing and safeguarding. It is critical to interagency governance, coordination and unification efforts across a broad range of federal, state, local, tribal, private sector, and international partners. An interagency MDA governance structure must provide sufficient direction in developing policy and standards to guide individual agencies and partners in sharing information and intelligence and working together to ensure continued alignment of efforts to achieve national MDA goals.

The following are key maritime information sharing resources:

- [Maritime Information Sharing Environment \(MISE\)](#)
- [Information Sharing Environment \(ISE\)](#)
- [National Information Exchange Model \(NIEM\)](#)
- [Nationwide SAR Initiative \(NSI\)](#)

## **Operational Guidance**

- [National Concept of Operations for Maritime Domain Awareness \(Dec 2007\)](#)

## **2015 Maritime Administration Maritime Domain Awareness Accomplishments (MDA):**

The Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Office of Security serves as the support staff for the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Executive Agent (EA). As such, the Office of Security supports and promotes creative initiatives to enhance maritime domain awareness to facilitate the safe and secure flow of commerce in accordance with the National Maritime Domain Awareness Plan for the National Strategy for Maritime Security.

We work collaboratively with industry, government agencies, academia, and international partners to develop and encourage best practices and innovative methods to protect our nation's ports, vessels, and mariners. We strive to serve as a catalyst among diverse maritime interests to promote the sharing of appropriate information to enhance commerce, maritime security, and reliability of the maritime transportation system.

DOT's MDA coordination activities include participation in:

1. the MDA Principals Executive Steering Committee;

2. the Alerts, Warnings, and Notifications sub-Working Group;
3. the National Maritime Intelligence Integration Office (NMIO) Interagency Advisory Group (NIAG);
4. the Canada-US (CANUS) Maritime Executive Roundtable;
5. the CANUS Maritime Stakeholders Conference;
6. the Five-Eyes MDA Working Group;
7. the Maritime Operational Threat Response (MOTR) Advisory Group; and
8. various other interagency and international MDA bodies.

During calendar year 2015, DOT was instrumental in the following initiatives:

1. Alerts, Warnings and Notifications (AWN) As-Is Study and Sub-Working Group – The NMIO-led AWN As-Is Study baselined the current processes for AWN. The AWN Sub-Working Group (WG) was subsequently chartered by the National Security Council's Maritime Security Working Group to recommend options to improve interagency coordination and streamline the processing for the issuance of maritime AWN messages, based on the findings of the As-Is Study. AWN Sub-Working Group participants include NMIO; Department of State (DoS); Department of Defense (DoD); Department of Transportation (DOT); and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). MARAD has led the industry outreach/input portion of this effort, coordinated the formulation of a new template for initial incident notifications, and hosts the meetings of this group. The work of this Sub-Working Group is ongoing.
2. Industry NIAG - In July, DOT provided extensive outreach and logistical support for an Industry NIAG meeting to discuss the various mechanisms by which the U.S. government provides maritime related safety, security, and environmental information to maritime industry and licensed mariners.
3. Company Security Officer Meeting (CSO) – MARAD invited maritime industry representatives to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Joint MARAD/USCG Company Security Officer (CSO) workshop held in July at DOT Headquarters. The goals for this event were to provide new and useful information for our CSOs and other maritime security partners on worldwide piracy developments, maritime mass migration, current threats posed by the Iranian Navy, maritime security information sharing, maritime cybersecurity, lessons learned on the use of privately contracted security personnel, and maritime crime. In addition to the presentations, open discussions were held on the aforementioned topics.
4. MARAD Advisories - MARAD issues advisories to rapidly disseminate information on maritime threats, safety, maritime security policy, and other time sensitive security matters affecting U.S.-flag vessel operations. MARAD advisories are issued by the Office of Security to CSOs, vessel masters, and other U.S. commercial maritime

interests. In 2015, MARAD issued two advisories which provided guidance to mariners transiting the Strait of Hormuz and awareness of the Tianjin, China explosion.

5. Collaboration Outreach – MARAD coordinated with representatives from the Global Maritime Coordination Center to provide a “MOTR-101” brief on how the federal interagency would potentially respond to a significant security incident involving a MARAD school ship. This training was conducted during the Annual School Ship Meeting that was held in November at the Calhoun MEBA Engineering School in Easton, MD.
6. Interagency Coordination - MARAD and several MDA/MOTR partners participated in a MARAD school ship maritime security table top exercise (TTX) in December in Arlington, VA. This TTX considered likely interagency MOTR and AWN coordination and focused on the need for coordination with affected state maritime academy staffs, the need for robust public affairs coordination, and the potential for congressional involvement. The purpose of this event was to link state maritime academy organizational leadership and training ship masters with the federal interagency organizations that would all be involved in responding to a major maritime security event involving a MARAD school ship.
7. Maritime Information Sharing Environment (MISE) Website – In support of MARAD’s efforts to provide outreach to MDA stakeholders, MARAD continues to maintain the mda.gov domain. The mda.gov domain is registered to DOT. All traffic to mda.gov is redirected to the DoD managed site at mise.mda.gov. No content is hosted on the DOT servers. DoD manages the content on the server and NMIO pays for the cost of the domain name.
8. Coordination with DOT MDA Stakeholders – MARAD’s Office of Security regularly meets with the DOT Office of Intelligence, the MARAD Command Center, and the DOT Crisis Management Center to provide outreach and education on available MDA tools.